Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

SUMMARY COMMENTS

Morgan Monroe State Forest Compartment _7 Tract _4 <u>30 Day Comment Period Ending: 3/7/2014</u> <u>Comments Received: 1</u>

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide. The public comments received have been reviewed in their entirety and given due consideration summarized in the Division of Forestry response below.

Comment Summary	Division of Forestry Response
 Concerned that management progression does not follow the 2009 Process flow chart. Concern of potential impact to endangered/threatened species. Would like more details in the guide as it relates to wildlife and timber inventories and assessments. Concern on timeliness of handling public records request. 	 Per the Resource Management Process, the flowchart order and timeline are for reference and are approximate. Actual process activities may occur somewhat out of the shown order. Comments received during comment periods are given consideration as part of the overall management process. Tract is adjacent to old SR 37 and is some distance away from planed I-69 road work. However tract will remain in forest cover providing long term buffer benefits.
 Contends tract is adjacent to future I-69 and provides forest and landscape buffer from highway Concern on range provided of potential volume prescribed for harvest and impact to Indiana bat. Concern that harvest will encourage invasive species growth. Concern on terminology used to describe trees is utilitarian in nature. Opposes prescribed commercial harvest 	 The management guide provides an overview of wildlife and timber resources rather than the full data and details used for guide development. Timber inventory and wildlife data/assessments are available. Public record requests are handled according to policy. Implementation of the RMG will utilize guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other sources to avoid take impacts to the Indiana bat. Habitats, communities and species are considered as part of the management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural heritage data has been reviewed to check for threatened or endangered bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. Area will be monitored for invasive species outbreaks and control measures implemented appropriate for the area. The RMG uses forest terminology which integrates many considerations including biological, human utility and more. Sometimes the scope of considerations are not readily portrayed by the terminology. The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural

Division of Forestry State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary principles and supported by inventory data and field assessments. • The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.

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